

Serial No.: 10/534,961
Examiner: Sanjay Caltungal
Reply to Office Action Mailed January 5, 2010
Page 2 of 6

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) An ultrasonic probe, comprising an inserting portion to be inserted into a body cavity; and a grip portion held by an operator outside of the body cavity,

wherein the inserting portion includes a transducer unit for transmitting and receiving an ultrasonic wave, a rotation axis provided in the transducer unit, and a swing mechanism for swinging the transducer unit around the rotation axis as a center axis, and the grip portion includes a motor for driving the swing mechanism,

the swing mechanism includes a shaft connected to the motor, a first pulley directly connected to an end portion of the shaft different from an end portion connected to the motor, a second pulley coaxially provided at the rotation axis, and a wire connecting the first pulley and the second pulley,

the shaft is oriented such that its longitudinal direction is parallel to a direction in which the motor and the transducer unit are connected, and

rotational movement of the motor is transmitted to the transducer unit via the shaft, the first pulley, the wire, and the second pulley.

2. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the first pulley and the second pulley have the same diameter.

3. (Previously presented) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the wire is moved in a direction orthogonal to a direction of a rotation axis of the first pulley on a peripheral surface of the first pulley, and moved in a direction orthogonal to a direction of a rotation axis of the second pulley on a peripheral surface of the second pulley.

4. (Previously presented) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1,

Serial No.: 10/534.961
Examiner: Sanjay Cattungal
Reply to Office Action Mailed January 5, 2010
Page 3 of 6

wherein the shaft and the transducer unit are provided so that a direction of a rotation axis of the shaft is orthogonal to a direction of the rotation axis of the transducer unit, and

in the swing mechanism, the direction in which the wire is moved is changed perpendicularly between the first pulley and the second pulley.

5. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 4, wherein the swing mechanism includes a third pulley for changing perpendicularly the direction in which the wire is moved.

6. (Previously presented) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a groove in which the wire is positioned is formed on the peripheral surface of the first pulley and the second pulley.